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Examiner:

Paul T. Chin

Docket No.:

23104.PUS

Group Art Unit:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Linker, et al.

Serial No.: 10/764,785

Filed:

January 26, 2004

For:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HANDLING SEMICONDUCTOR WAFERS AND INTERLEAFS

To The Commissioner of Patents:

Sir:

<u>AMENDMENT</u>

In response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2004, please amend the aboveentitled application as follows:

Claim 1. (Canceled without prejudice).

Claim 2. (Currently amended). A vacuum pickup device as claimed in Claim 4 7 wherein the pickup surface

includes a pattern of grooves defining vacuum channels in the pickup face of the paddle.

Claim 3. (Currently amended). A vacuum pickup device as claimed in Claim 4 7 including a U-shaped vacuum channel formed in the pickup face adjacent the outer periphery thereof having open ends to admitting ambient air when the impeller is